

# Fire Chiefs' & Fire Fighters' Association of York County, Inc.

**330 Emig Road  
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday**

August 17, 2009

President Richard Shank called the monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order and led the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence. Fifty people were in attendance.

President Richard Shank asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1<sup>st</sup>: Chris Krichen 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Fornadel Motion Passed

Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the balances of the treasurer's report.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS:** Chief Senft: The Board met prior to this evening's meeting. We met with Suzanne McConkey to do cleanup work for the draw down of the funds. She will be working with Committee members, The Board of Governors, and the staff. We discussed a way of disposing of the Ward LaFrance, as is, where is, by donation. We also discussed issues with the Copier and some pond maintenance.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Steve Buffington: The New System is up. There have been several reports of a Bonking noise on the new radios. The radio shows A CC scan message. When this occurs, document the date, time, and location of the incident, and report it to 911.

Chris Krichen said during an emergency meeting, it was decided to change the template. The radios will need to be reprogrammed. The talkaround channels are to be used only the on the scene, not to talk to 911. 911 does not monitor the talkaround channels. When a talkaround channel is being used on a emergency scene, the Incident Commander will have to use 2 radios during an emergency. 1 radio would be used to talk to 911 on one channel. The other radio would be used to monitor those on the location of the emergency (firefighters, interior crews, etc.)

**When you are on the talk around channels, when the emergency button is pushed, 911 will not know of the emergency.**

The radios will need reprogrammed. They will start programming them next week. 911 will be coming to see you to reprogram them; it will be scheduled in advance.

Chief Shank stated that he can't believe we spent what we have, for the system that we have. We need to get someone in here that knows what is occurring, and the issues that we have. It is costing us money. We need to be able to rely on the radio system, and it is our goal. We should not have to rely on the conventional channels. 911 needs to make this system work. We have to learn where those locations are that we are not able to get out to 911, and we must change to a conventional channel. It doesn't matter whom ever we need to get, but these radios need to work better. Steve Buffington should get with Eric to propose where we stand, and have it corrected. The next meeting is scheduled on the 31<sup>st</sup>, in Penn Township.

It was stated about it might be easier to use the radios if you make the simple to use. Maybe you could eliminate some of the channels. There also needs to be some policy & procedures put in place for these radios.

You need to preach radio discipline to your guys. Use common sense.

Joe Yahnke brought up the issue that the EMS are using Fire channels. We need to have a meeting before next Monday's meeting.

Dave Nichols brought up the idea that we since we are having all of these issues, maybe we need to have a standard time each week that the Committee gets together to discuss issues, and plans. It was suggested that one week it is set for the morning or afternoon. Then the following week maybe have an evening meeting. Mix it up, so the same people are not missing all of the meetings depending on their work schedule.

Mark Albright brought up the concern that we need to pick something and stick with. He keeps having to train his guys on how to use the radios, but then 911 changes something.

Phil stated that all three hospitals have been surveyed. The work at Hanover will be completed shortly. York & Memorial will be close behind. Work on installing the mobile radios should be completed in Penn Twp by tomorrow, Hanover by Friday. Once they are finished, they will move to sector B, and then Sector A. Maycom is looking for two more companies to come and help with the installation process. So far, there has only been 1 incident.

**FIRE SCHOOL:** Carl Avery, Program Coordinator, submitted the following report.

**Activity:**

- ☛ During the month of July the Fire School hosted **61** events, which accounted for **326** hours of activity. This resulted in an outstanding **5,734** Student hours.

**EVOC REMINDER:**

- ☛ Sponsoring organizations are RESPONSIBLE to provide vehicles and if need be, authorized Drivers, for the students they send to our EVOC classes. Please remember when you sign off on a student pre-registering for the EVOC class – *IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY – NOT THE FIRE SCHOOLS*

**Combustible Liquids Pit:**

- ☛ Repairs are proceeding

**LODD Investigation Presentation:**

- ☛ The Prince William County (Virginia) Department of Fire and Rescue (PWCF&R) presented their Line of Duty Death investigation of their Technician I, Kyle Robert Wilson in a residential fire on Wednesday August 12, 2009. This interactive presentation was a no holds barred, frank and open discussion of their findings. The 30 persons attending this course found it to be eye opening and informative as well as inspiring presentation
  - Your Fire school has a copy of the report and the accompanying NIOSH report
  - We shall Never Forget, Let us always Learn, Let us reduce the number of LODDs by building on the experiences of others

**THERMAL IMAGING CLASS**

- ☛ **York County Fire School is hosting a class from SafeIR. It is titled Tactical Thermal Imaging Training for Firefighters.** This is a 2 day class on the tactical use of TICs. **Day 1 does not have a class limit** and will be strictly class room. **Day 2 of this Session will have a limit of 15 and will be HANDS ON Training in the Burn Building. This class is product specific to MSA Thermal Imaging Cameras (this company is recognized by MSA to present this training).**
  - **DATES are AUGUST 22 & 23, 2009**

## **NEW OFFERING**

- ☛ Your Fire School working together with Paradise Fire Equipment will be brining "Captain" Dave P. Fornell, author of the "*Fire Stream management handbook*" as well as numerous articles in magazines such as "FIREHOUSE", "FIRE CHIEF", "FIRE ENGINEERING", "FIREFIGHTER'S NEWS" and "FIRE & RESCUE" to York County on November 14<sup>th</sup>. We are still working on the exact details of this presentation but the theme will be Commanding the initial response with a strong component on Fires built in the new light weight construction.

## **Fall Technical Rescue Classes added**

- ☛ Ropes and Basic Rigging Class – October 3 & 4

- (To be held at Station 61 this is a YCFS Class, thanks for the assistance from our partners @ Shrewsbury Fire and Rescue)
- ☛ Trench Rescue Awareness – October 7
- ☛ Structural Collapse 1 – October 28
- ☛ Confined Space Awareness – November 6
- ☛ Confined Space Rescue – November 7 & 8
- ☛ **BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS**

#### **The ENTRY LEVEL Program:**

- ☛ Fire Instructor William Staub has begun the ELIF class that **was scheduled August 15, 2009**
- ☛ The SUMMER / FALL Entry Level Class series began in June with Lead Instructor for all four components in the series being Fire Instructor Bill Hoover. This series of classes will meet primarily on Tuesday and Thursday with some weekend skill sessions. See below for course starting dates:
  - ELEF – Exterior Firefighter – August 4<sup>th</sup>
  - ELIF – Interior Firefighter – September 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### **Current and Future Schedule:**

- ☛ Our Course Catalogue is updated on an ongoing basis, please be sure to check out our web site. Be sure to check it often.
- ☛ The 2009 schedule is available online at our web site [www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org](http://www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org) , just click on the [Click Here to See Available Classes](#) link on the home page.

#### **COOPERATION IS KEY**

- ☛ **The FIRE SCHOOL's schedule is packed tight this year. Several weekends we have multiple classes going on. The Fire Instructors have really stepped up in their cooperative efforts to maximize training on our existing training area. Students need to recognize this also, if multiple classes are being conducted on the drill grounds, students should follow these simple guidelines:**
  - **STAY WITH YOUR GROUP**
  - **STAY in you designated training area**
  - **FOLLOW STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PROCEDURES**
  - **BE DISCIPLINED follow you instructors direction and ALWAYS work through them**
  - **ALWAYS THINK - SAFETY FIRST**

**As Chief Officers and Fire Service Leaders in Your Company, the Fire School asks that you reinforce this with your firefighters BEFORE you send them to the Fire School.**

#### **Burn Building:**

- ☛ **SCHEDULING THE NEW BUILDING:** as was stated above, the Fire School is extremely busy this year. Planning for use of the SBB needs to be long range, please plan ahead accordingly and please include us in your plans at the earliest phases.
- ☛ We are working on putting the finishing touches on a course for York County Fire School *Structure Burn Building Facilitator Program* and hope to be offering it soon. This program will present to those who are selected to be a SBB Facilitators. More details will soon follow on this.

**YORK COUNTY ATR:** Heather Marsteller: There were 2 calls for the month. The first call was on July 16th. We assisted with a high angle rescue of a worker who became ill due to heat related issues in York Township. The second call was on July 27th. We assisted Red Lion's Fire Dept. to stabilize the bearing wall of a structure after it was struck by a vehicle. This caused collapse, which blocked access into the home.

**OEM:** Tom Graybill: No Report

**HAZ-MAT TEAM:** Bob Boeckel: There were three calls for the month. I want to say thanks to everyone here for the use of the facilities on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Everything went well.

**FIRE POLICE:** James Robertson: A few months ago, the Fire Police Association came up with the idea of having a certification of traffic units. The Association would conduct the vehicle inspections, and it would be valid for 3 years.

Chief Shank stated that these inspections would not be conducted by the Fire Chiefs' & Firefighters' Association. It would have to be the responsibility of each individual fire Company.

It was talked about changing the dispatch of Fire Police. Instead of doing "All Calls", Fire Police could be dispatched by Operation Groups according to geographical locations. Each Fire Chief would need to put it on their box alarms. This is the only way it would work.

**RIT COMMITTEE:** Jan Cromer: The committee is done with exception of appointing committee members to conduct the inspections. They should have some knowledge of RIT. The appointed members include Joe Yahnke, as the Chairman, Joe Stevens, Jan Cromer, Shane Feezer, and Marvin Mellinger.

**FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:** Tony Myers: No report

**FIRE PREVENTION:** Steve Tawney: No report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No Unfinished Business

**NEW BUSINESS:** A motion was made to pay the bills. 1<sup>st</sup>: Steve Buffington 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jan Cromer Motion Passed

A motion was made for this association to draft a letter to the County Commissioners, which is to be hand delivered by the President, that we do not receive the attendance from the 911 Center at our meetings, at such a critical time in the radio switchover. 1<sup>st</sup>: Steve Buffington 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chief Shank Motion Passed

During the Board of Governors meeting we discussed about trying to raise funds for ourselves to show the County that we have made an effort to find our own financial means. President Shank appointed the following members to the Fundraising committee to find ways in raising funds for the school: George Boyer, Ryan Brenneman, John McDonald, & Bob Bowman.

**REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

Deputy Chief Joe Yahnke stated that when you are using the new radios to conduct a training, make sure 911 gives you a private channel. The news media now have their own radios, and can read the numbers and know an approximate location the county is in. I was conducting a MAYDAY class a few weeks ago. 911 put me on Ops 6. The 911 center was going to use it as training for the dispatchers as well. An hour and half into the training, I had 911 call me and say they had received numerous calls from Chiefs wondering why I am not asking for more equipment for all of these Maydays.

It was suggested that for some of the Talk groups that they be labeled as TNG: for training purposes only.

It was stated that last week, it was noticed that firefighters are still wearing their turn out gear on water rescue. You would not send a firefighter in a burning structure wearing a pair of shorts and fins. Do not you're your men, and women, into a water rescue call wearing TOG.

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009, at the York County Fire School

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chad Arnold. Motion Passed

Sincerely,

*Heather Marsteller*

Heather Marsteller  
Recording Secretary